

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A method for producing a cellulose fiber product resistant to biological degradation which comprises:

providing a cellulose fiber derived from wood that has been at least partially purified by a chemical pulping process;

treating the fiber so that it contains a biocidally effective amount of 0.1-2.0% by weight of dry fiber of a biocidal composition selected from the group consisting of didecyldimethylammonium chloride, didecyldimethylammonium bromide and mixtures thereof; and

drying the treated fiber that is resistant to fiber length degradation during refining.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 in which the fiber is also treated to contain 0.01-0.25% of a water soluble copper salt.

10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 8 in which the didecyldimethylammonium chloride, didecyldimethylammonium bromide or mixture thereof is present in the fiber in an amount of ~~0.1-2.0%~~ 0.5-1.0% by weight of dry fiber.

11. (Original) The method of Claims 8 or 9 in which the biocidal composition is the didecyldimethylammonium chloride.

12. (Original) The method of Claims 8 or 9 in which the biocidal composition is the didecyldimethylammonium bromide.

13. (Original) The method of Claims 8 or 9 in which the cellulose fiber is an unbleached kraft fiber.

14-17. (Canceled)

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

18. (Currently amended) A method for producing a cellulose fiber product resistant to biological degradation which comprises:

providing a wood-derived cellulose fiber derived from wood that has been at least partially purified by a chemical pulping process;

treating the fiber so that it contains a biocidally effective amount of a water soluble copper salt to obtain a copper content in the fiber in the range from 0.01-0.25% by weight of the fiber; and

drying the treated fiber that is resistant to fiber length degradation during refining.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18 which further includes in combination with the copper salt a biocidally effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of didecyldimethylammonium chloride, didecyldimethylammonium bromide and mixtures thereof.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19 in which the didecyldimethylammonium chloride, didecyldimethylammonium bromide or mixture thereof is present in the fiber in an amount of 0.1-2.0% by weight of the dry fiber.

21. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~[[16]]~~ 18 in which the cellulose fiber is an unbleached kraft fiber.

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Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100